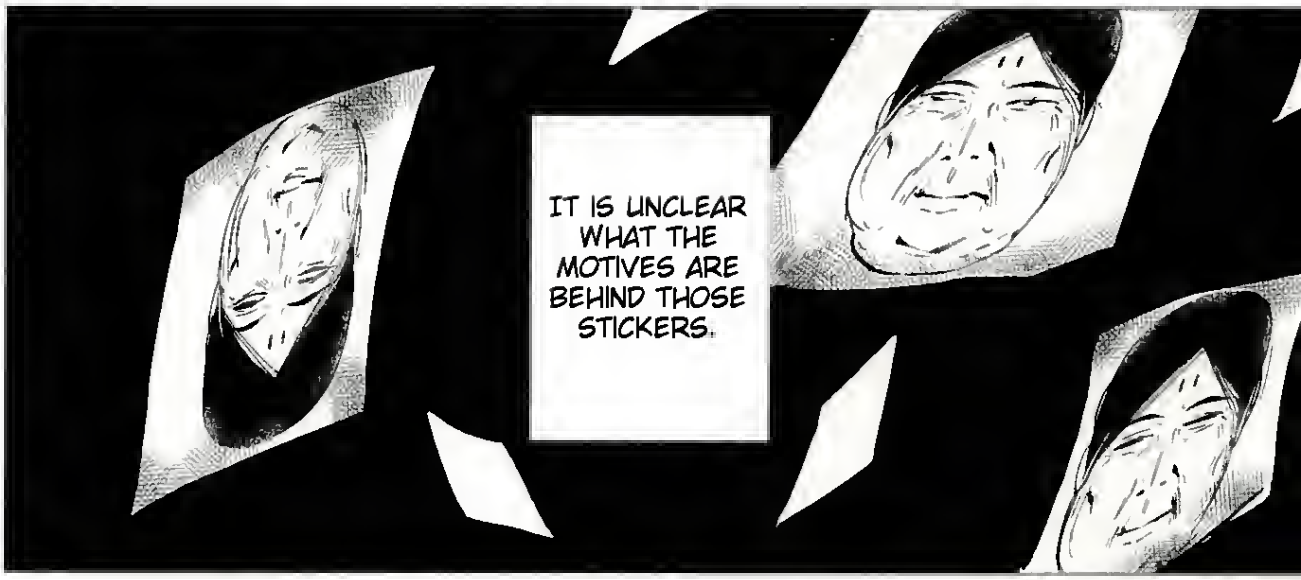
File 02

Ogasawara Yuuto
Weekly Kadokawa
Reporter
WE ARE NOW INVESTIGATING THE MYSTERIOUS STICKERS THAT ARE ALL OVER THE METROPOLIS



FOR THE SAKE OF WRITING A MAJOR EXCLUSIVE ARTICLE, I'M TRYING TO UNLOCK THE MYSTERY OF THE SUMO STICKERS AS A REPORTER

ALL-ROUND APPRAISER Q

TO DO THIS, I REQUIRE THE SOLO APPRAISER LENDING ME HER EXPERTISE.

Not to mention this girl isn't just for looks.

If it's her, not only can we find a leading clue, I can also confirm the truth myself.

My chest is beating with excitement.

Sfx: Bump x2

THE SUMO WRESTLER STICK-ERS...
THEY'RE HERE TOO...
IN AN ARRANGEMENT OF 6 X 5, ALL 30 PIECES HAVE DIFFERENT EMOTIONS,
THE FACES ARE NOT SYMMETRICAL ON EITHER LEFT OR RIGHT SIDE.

THE SIZES MATCH WITH THE REST OF THE SUMO WRESTLER STICKERS FROM OTHER PLACES.
VERTICAL: 7.5 CM, HORIZONTAL: 1.5 CM.

THIS ISN'T JUST A PRANK, BUT RATHER FEELS LIKE IT'S PLACED ON PURPOSE TO CAPTURE PEOPLE'S INTEREST.
LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE CHOSEN THE DENTS OF THE EAVES TO PLACE THE STICKERS.
IT'S PLACED TO AVOID THE RAIN AND WIND AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
AN ADHESIVE AGENT IS USED TO MAKE PEELING DIFFICULT.
SEEMS LIKE ON TOP OF USING A BRUSH ON THE WALL WITH GLUE, THE STICKERS ARE PLACED OVER IN A WIDE RANGE.
WHICH MEANS, IT'S MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT THEY ARE NOT STICKERS, BUT RATHER PAPER.
MAYBE THEY'RE USING THE SAME COMPONENT FOR THE GLUE...
ONCE IT IS PEELED OFF, THE PASTE WON'T GO BACK TO THE WAY IT USED TO BE LIKE WHEN YOU OPEN AN ENVELOPE FOR THE ELECTRIC BILL.
FOR EXAM-PLE,
SOMEBODY FROM THE CITY HALL SAID THAT WHEN THE STICKERS ARE PEELED OFF FROM THE GUARDRAIL, IT LEAVES A TATTERED MESS.

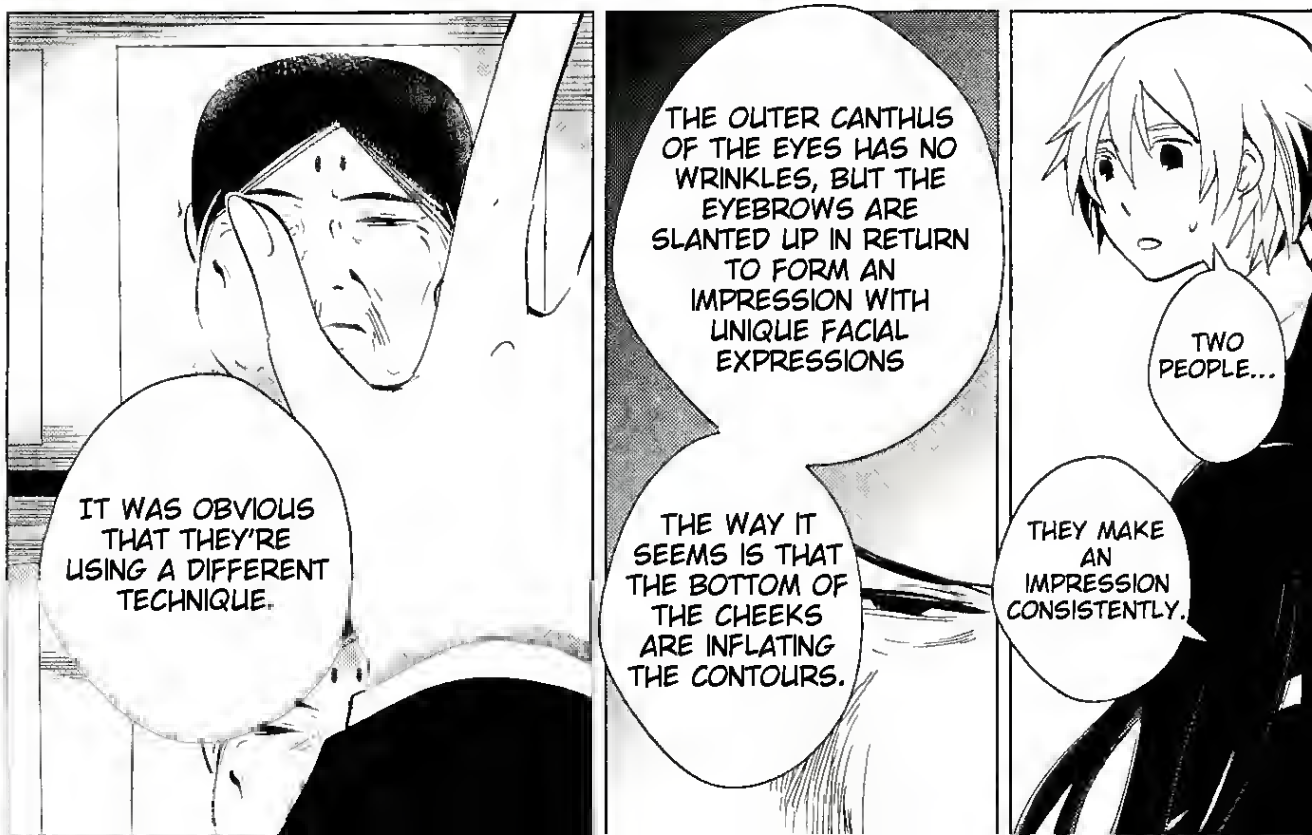
TN: Desiccant is commonly found in pre-packaged solids that absorb water.

75t
THE SURFACE OF THE ENVELOPE WOULD BE UNEVEN FROM THE DESICCANT'S MICRO PARTICLES,
THEN YOU APPLY 75 TONS OF PRESSING POWER TO MESH THE UNEVEN SURFACE TOGETHER.
THAT'S ABSOLUTELY INCORRECT.
EH? IS THAT SO?
WE CAN DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF PRINTER IS USED BASED ON THE INK STRAIN CONDITIONS, BUT...
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THESE SUMO WRESTLER STICKERS ARE WATERPROOF, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE A COATING APPLIED TO ALL OF THEM.
SO THAT'S HOW IT WORKS...
ONCE YOU PEEL IT OFF, IT WON'T BE THE SAME AS IT USED TO BE EVEN IF YOU APPLY 75 TONS OF PRESSURE AGAIN.
WHAT'S THIS?
THEY'RE HAND-DRAWN!

What a guy
COULD IT BE AN UNSUCCESSFUL MANGA ARTIST MAKING SELF-ADVERTISE-MENTS?
JUST ONE GUY CAN DRAW THOUSANDS OF THESE PICTURES?
THE TRACES FROM THE PENCIL DRAFT HAVE BEEN ERASED.
THE PIC-TURES ARE RETOUCHED WITH WHITE COLORING...
HAND-DRAWN? THEY'RE NOT PRINTED?
THE PEN IS DIPPED INTO THE INK FIRST, AND THEN IT'S DRAWN FROM SCRATCH...
. . . .
NO DOUBT THAT IT'S FROM AN ARTIST USED TO DRAWING FOR SO LONG, BUT...
THAT APPEARS TO BE THE CASE.
BUT THE AESTHETICS ARE NOT BAD.
ISN'T THAT FREAK-Y!?
NOT BAD!?

WHAT DOES?
STILL... THIS MAKES ME CURIOUS SOMEHOW.
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY COUNTED ON MAKING AN IMPACT AS I THOUGHT.
THEY'RE DRAWN IN AN ECCENTRIC AND OMINOUS WAY ON PURPOSE...
It's just so obese
GOTCHA.

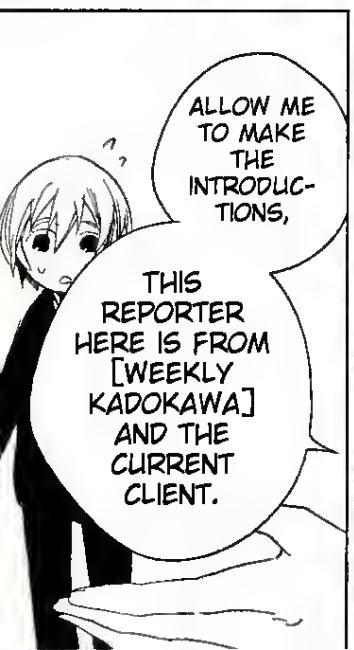
TWO PEOPLE DREW THIS TOGETHER.
LOOK AT HOW IT WAS DRAWN.


IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THEY'RE USING A DIFFERENT TECHNIQUE.
THE OUTER CANTHUS OF THE EYES HAS NO WRINKLES, BUT THE EYEBROWS ARE SLANTED UP IN RETURN TO FORM AN IMPRESSION WITH UNIQUE FACIAL EXPRESSIONS
THE WAY IT SEEMS IS THAT THE BOTTOM OF THE CHEEKS ARE INFLATING THE CONTOURS.
TWO PEOPLE...
THEY MAKE AN IMPRESSION CONSISTENTLY.

IT'S RINDA.
YES, THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT TO INVESTIGATE.
Beep
THE PROBLEM LIES WITH WHICH ONE IS THE IMITATION.
TRUE, AND KNOWING WHO THE AUTHOR OF THESE SUMO WRESTLER STICKERS BRINGS US ONE STEP CLOSER IN SOLVING THIS CASE.
Beep
THEN PLEASE WAIT AT THE OFFICE.
LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE STORE.
AH... RIGHT.

HUH?
THE STORE IS STILL OPEN?
キョロ
キョロ
Didn't we lock the store when we went out?
ガー
Piaaaak
GOOD AFTERNOON, HIMURO-SAN.
YOU'RE QUITE EARLY.
くるっ

I GOT FREE TIME SINCE I JUST HAD NO MORE LECTURES.
Professor of Applied Physics Department: Himuro Takuma Waseda University's Department of Advanced Engineering

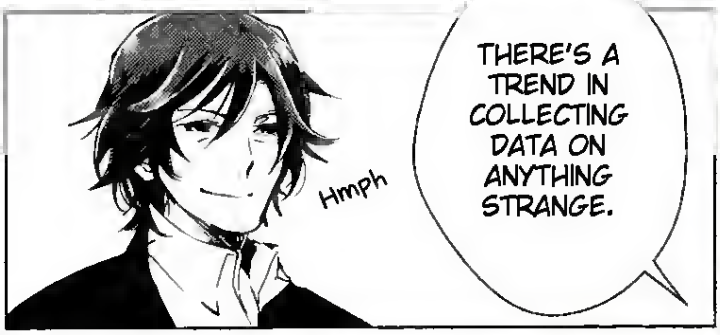

ALLOW ME TO MAKE THE INTRODUC-TIONS,
THIS REPORTER HERE IS FROM [WEEKLY KADOKAWA] AND THE CURRENT CLIENT.

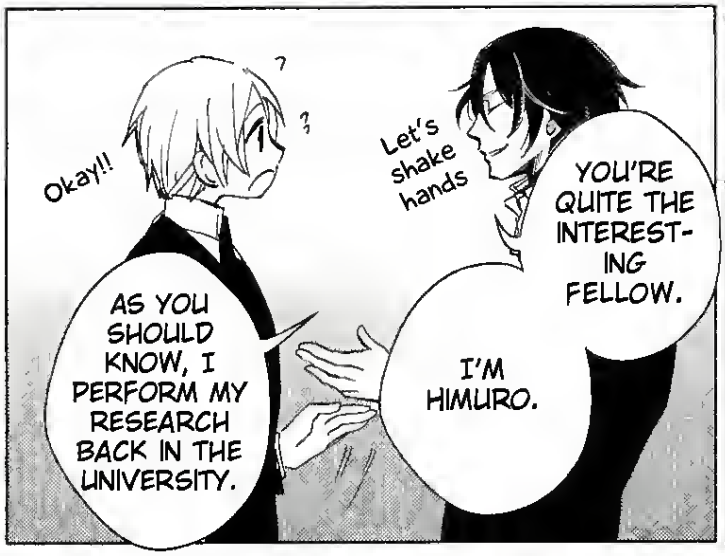
I WANT TO REQUEST FOR AN APPRAISAL BY HIMURO-SAN.

SAY, RINDA.
WHY IS THAT GUARDRAIL HERE?
THIS GUY'S HOLDING THE SPARE KEY IF HE CAN GET INTO THE STORE THAT EASILY...

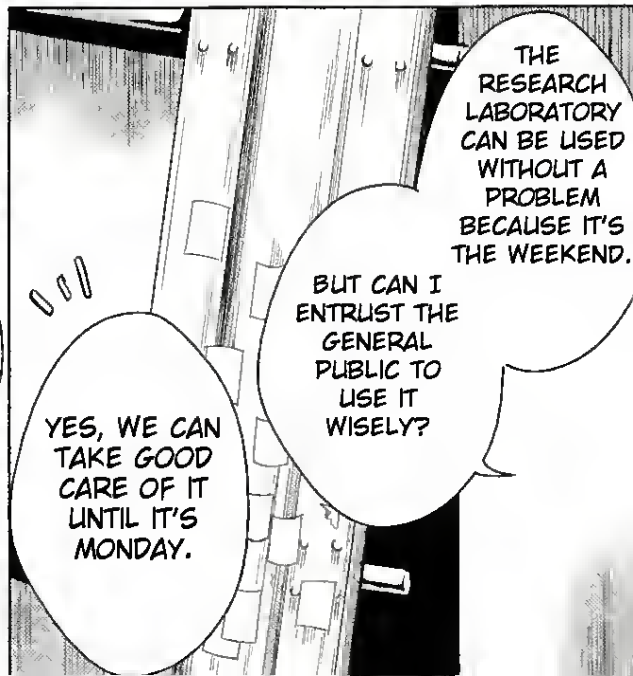
AH,
A MAGAZINE REPORTER, HUH.
WERE YOU INVESTIGATING THOSE WEIRD STICKERS?

THAT'S CORRECT.


Hmph
THERE'S A TREND IN COLLECTING DATA ON ANYTHING STRANGE.


Okay!!
Let's shake hands
YOU'RE QUITE THE INTEREST-ING FELLOW.
I'M HIMURO.
AS YOU SHOULD KNOW, I PERFORM MY RESEARCH BACK IN THE UNIVERSITY.

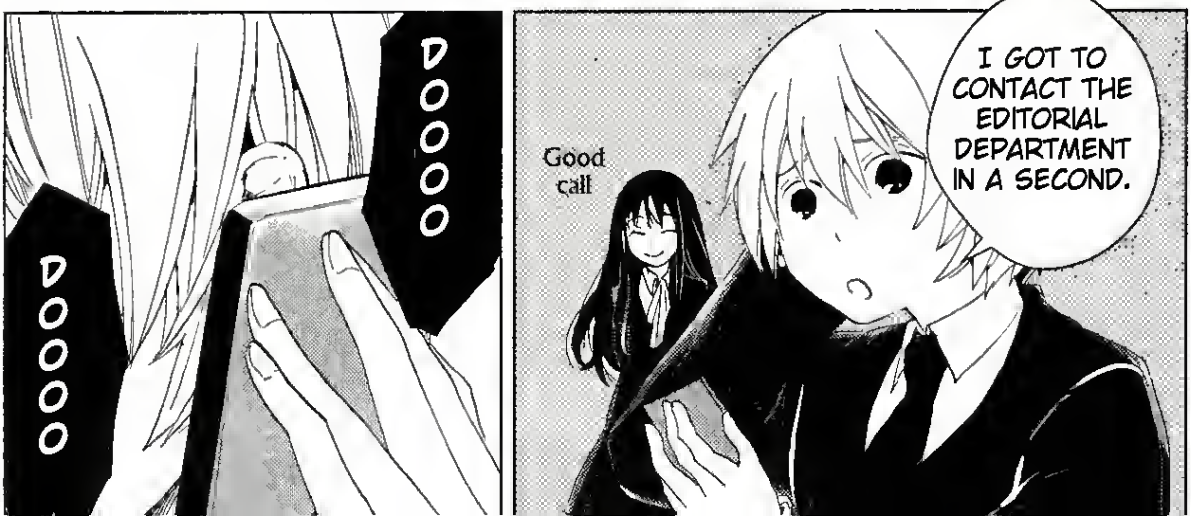
SO, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO INVESTIGATE?
HMPH.
I SEE.


THE RESEARCH LABORATORY CAN BE USED WITHOUT A PROBLEM BECAUSE IT'S THE WEEKEND.
BUT CAN I ENTRUST THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO USE IT WISELY?
YES, WE CAN TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT UNTIL IT'S MONDAY.

LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENCES IN HOW THE DRAWINGS WERE TOUCHED
I WANT TO KNOW HOW IT WAS DRAWN IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YES, I WANT TO KNOW WHICH SIDE IS THE ORIGINAL AND WHICH SIDE IS THE COPYCAT.
CAN YOU INVESTIGATE HOW OLD THE INK WAS ON THESE STICKERS?
I'M AFRAID THAT TWO PEOPLE DREW THESE STICKERS.
THE TIME GAP IS TANGIBLE BETWEEN THE USAGE OF THE DIP PEN AND THE G PEN.
ABOUT THESE STICKERS
CAN I PEEL THEM OFF?
YES, THEY'RE GARBAGE ALREADY.
RIP
RIP
THAT SAVES ME THE TROUBLE,
I USUALLY HAVE TO COMMIT NON-DESTRUCTIVE INSPECTIONS AS BEST AS I CAN.
HIGH PRECISION IS NECESSARY WHEN I TAKE SAMPLES.

I count on you
my wheelbar-row...
ALL RIGHT THEN
I'M GOING TO BORROW THE LABORA-TORY.
THE RESULTS WILL BE ON MONDAY.
OKAY.

NOW THEN...
HIMURA-SAN'S APPRAISAL RESULT WILL BE DECIDED ON MONDAY.
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW.
I SEE...

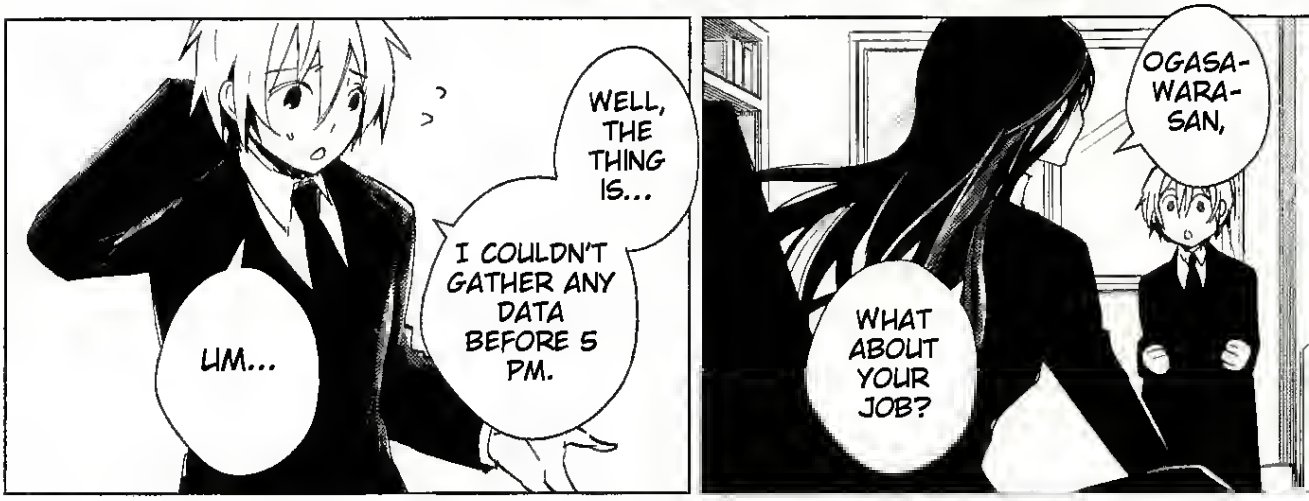

DOOOO
DOOOO
I GOT TO CONTACT THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT IN A SECOND.
Good call

I CAN'T DELIVER THE APPRAISAL RESULT TODAY...
ABOUT THAT...
IF I COULD RECEIVE AN EXTENSION UP TILL MONDAY, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL...
Oh man.
He's angry now.
AH, OGASA-WARA.
IT'S THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.
HELLO, THIS IS THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT OF [WEEKLY KADOKAWA]
HI, IT'S OGASA-WARA.
RIGHT NOW I'M AT THE APPRAISER'S PLACE, BUT...
EH...!?
I'LL GIVE YOU AN EXTENSION.
GOT IT.
NO CAN DO!
I THINK I'LL HEAD BACK TO THE COMPANY SINCE THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
UM...
HE'S GIVING ME AN EXTEN-SION!?
THE DEMON OGINO FROM [WEEKLY KADOKA-WA]...

DO YOU KNOW WHERE MIYAMAKI IS?
GOTCHA.
I'LL GO HOME IMMEDIATELY.
EH.
MIYAMAKI ALREADY WENT BACK.
THE ONLY ONES REMAINING ARE THE DIRECTOR AND I.
THEN IT SHOULD BE FINE THAT YOU DON'T COME BACK, RIGHT?
SINCE TODAY IS FRIDAY, YOU DON'T NEED TO COME BACK TO WORK UNTIL IT'S MONDAY.
YOUR HAVE YOUR WALLET AND OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS, RIGHT?
YES.
EVERYBODY WENT BACK
BEFORE THE DEADLINE IS UP...?
He hung up on me...
Beep
Beep
UM.
Click
YES SIR.
NOW HURRY UP AND FIND ANY WAY TO HEAR THE APPRAISER'S ADVICE.
IT'S EXACTLY TIME TO LEAVE WORK FOR THE END OF TODAY.

I CAN'T HELP BUT RELY ON GATHERING DATA TOGETHER WITH RINDA-SAN.
MAYBE KADOKAWA BOOKSTORE IS REORGANIZING ITS DEPARTMENT AGAIN.
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED DURING THE TOP-MANAGEMENT'S MEETING...
STILL...
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO LEARN SO MANY INTERESTING THINGS!

OH...
IF I CAN READ A BOOK, I'M PERFECTLY CONTENT.
NOT REALLY...
LIKE MEETING WITH YOUR FRIENDS OUTSIDE OR TRAVELLING FOR EXAMPLE?
DO YOU HAVE OTHER HOBBIES?
...PERHAPS
IS READING YOUR HOBBY?
UM... SAY, RINDA-SAN.
. . . . .


UM...
I COULDN'T GATHER ANY DATA BEFORE 5 PM.
WELL, THE THING IS...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOB?
OGASA-WARA-SAN,

I LEARNED SO MANY THINGS...!!
JUST BY FOLLOWING YOU,

OH NO!
IT'S AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT TO WRITE A MAJOR REPORT ABOUT YOU AS AN APPRAISER..
FROM WHEN YOU OPENED YOUR STORE TO THE ORIGINS OF THE NAME "Q"...
I DON'T MEAN TO OVERSTEP IN YOUR PRIVATE LIFE...!
ABOUT ME?
Beep beep beep beep beep
MY APOLOGIZES. I WASN'T INSIDE THE STORE UNTIL NOW.
YES, I HAVE BEEN MEANING TO RELOCATE DUE TO THE STORE BEING SLIGHTLY CRAMPED...
. . .
YES.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, MR REALTOR!
EHH!?
UH HUH...
?

YES!
ON MY WAY!!
ばっ
Rinda...
?
San?
RIGHT NOW!?
THE LOTTERY...
100 THOU-SAND!?
AT THE STATION FRONT!!
ガラッ
OGASA-WARA-SAN...
I APOLO-GIZE...
I... I NEED TO GO GRAB SOMETHING AT THE LOTTERY!!
ぱ
?

RIGHT NOW!?
YOU HAVE SOMETHING AT THE LOTTERY!?
THAT'S RIGHT!!
IT'LL TAKE US THREE MINUTES BY WALKING TO ARRIVE IN FRONT OF KAGURAZAKA STATION.
IT'S 60 SQUARE METRE AND ¥100 THOUSAND A MONTH.
HUH!?
ISN'T THIS A SCAM?
The conditions are too good
SIX MONTHS OF DEPOSITING FEE WILL BRING 20% OF AMORTIZATION, AND IT COMES WITH MONTHLY HONORARIUM AND COMMISSION.
IT'S COMMON SENSE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY!
AND SINCE THE BUILDING OWNER RECEIVES PLENTY OF INCOME FROM THE SECOND FLOOR, THE FIRST FLOOR'S LEASE IS CHEAP.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT ISN'T THAT AMAZING?
YUP! IT'S AMAZING!
WAIT!
I'M COMING TOO!

WE'RE SORRY, BUT...
THE LOTTERY IS CLOSED FOR TODAY.
Whoa
RINDA-SAN.
Cheer up!!

ドーン
よろっ…
AH.
!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE TOO LATE...
BUT STILL, IT'S AMAZING HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE HERE.
WE GOT SOME SERIOUS COMPETITION.
ング不動産抽選会

I'M SO SORRY!
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
NO, IT'S TOO BAD THAT THE LOTTERY ENDED JUST NOW.
YEAH ...
TRUTH IS, WE DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME FOR THE LOTTERY...
OH, IS THAT SO.
DO YOU DRAW SOMETHING OUT FOR THE LOTTERY?
NO.
THE METHOD FOR THIS LOTTERY IS CALLED [TAG THROWING]
[TAG THROWING] IS USED PLENTY OF TIMES BY AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR LOTTERIES.
TAG THROWING?
THEY THROW THE CARD NUMBER OF EACH CONTESTANT OFF THE TABLE...
THEY REMOVE THE CARDS THAT ARE FLIPPED WHILE THE REST STAYS.
AND IT REPEATS UNTIL THE ONLY PERSON WITH THE LAST REMAINING NUMBER WINS.

ALTHOUGH I ALWAYS THOUGHT THE WAY THE CARDS ARE HANDMADE OR HOW YOU THROW THE CARDS ARE UNFAIR.
BUT THEN THE PROBABILITY OF THE CARD BEING FACEUP OR FACEDOWN IS STILL AROUND 50/50, GIVE OR TAKE.
HEY, I'VE SEEN IT ON SOME MOVIE BEFORE.
YES YES.
THAT'S HOW IT'S DONE.
Bank of Japan
THE ¥10 COIN WAS PUBLICLY MANUFACTURED TO HAVE HEADS AND TAILS, THEREBY MAKING THE PROBABILITY 50/50.
THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOTTERY ARE SPLIT UP IN TWO GROUPS, WITH ONE GROUP WHO BROUGHT THEIR COIN MADE BEFORE THE YEAR 2010, AND ANOTHER AFTER THE YEAR 2010.
I BROUGHT MINE MADE IN THE YEAR 1996.
THAT'S RIGHT.
FOR THAT IS WHY THE ¥10 COIN IS IN CIRCULATION.
THOSE ARE PEOPLE FROM A COMPANY.
THEY'RE CALLED IONA FOODS OR SOMETHING...
LOOK,
THE JACKPOT CAN HIT THOSE WITHIN THE 20 YEARS...

WOW~
EVEN THE BIG SUITS ARE JOINING IN TOO.
DID YOU COME FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
MY NAME IS NARAZAKI.
I'M A FARMER FROM IBARAKI.
MY WIFE RECOMMENDED ME TO SET UP A DIRECT FARMER'S MARKET IN THE METROPOLIS.
ALTHOUGH EVERYWHERE IS EXPENSIVE, I CAN FIND EXCELLENT PRODUCTS.
A DIRECT FARMER'S MARKET, HUH
SO YOU WANT TO SET UP SHOP AS A WAY TO TRANSPORT AND SELL THE VEGETABLES YOU GROW?
YES.

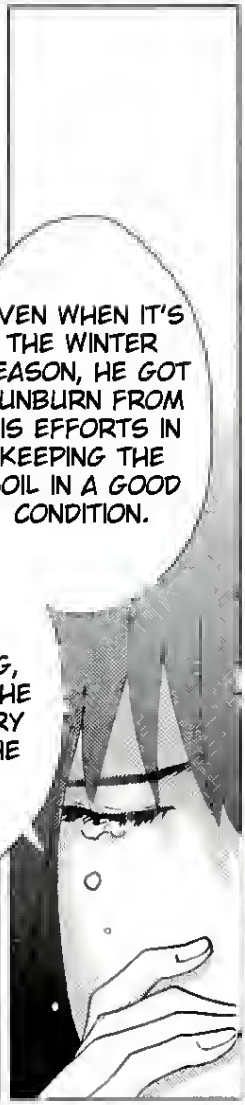
WE NORMALLY DON'T LIST MUCH OF THE PRICE WHEN WORKING ON ORGANIC VEGETABLES BACK IN MY HOMETOWN.
MY WIFE ALWAYS MENTIONED HOW PEOPLE IN THE METROPOLIS EAT VEGETABLES THAT ARE TREATED WITH FARMING CHEMICALS.
I'VE HEARD FROM A LIST OF PEOPLE IN THE RESTAURANT.
IF ORGANIC VEGETABLES CAN BE SOLD HERE, THEY WOULD ABSOLUTELY BUY IT AT THE FIRST CHANCE...
IT'S TRUE THAT IN THE HEART OF METROPOLIS, IT'S NECESSARY TO HAVE SPECIALIZED STORES THAT SELL ORGANIC VEGETABLES.
YOUR WIFE MUST BE SUPPORTIVE OF THIS.
. . . .
MY WIFE HAS PASSED AWAY LAST MONTH.
HER CHRONIC DISEASE MADE ANY ATTEMPTS AT RECOVERY FUTILE.

ALTHOUGH I LOST ONCE OR THREE TIMES FROM FLIPPING "TAILS"...
BESIDES, I WAS THE LAST PERSON REMAINING AT THE LOTTERY.
AH, I'M SO SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
OH, NOT A PROBLEM.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE I COULD HELP OUT MY WIFE SOMEHOW...
OOPS, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THE TIME.
WELL NOW, EXCUSE ME.

HIS WIFE DIED BEFORE HE WENT OUT OF THE STORE...
THAT POOR MAN.

HEY NOW,
LOOK AT HIM...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?

All it took was one look...
She did it again...
...
BECAUSE HE RARELY USES HERBICIDE, HE PULLS THE WEED OUT WITH HIS OWN HANDS...
THERE ARE COUNTLESS SCARS ON HIS FINGERS FROM PULLING THE ROOTS.


EVEN WHEN IT'S THE WINTER SEASON, HE GOT SUNBURN FROM HIS EFFORTS IN KEEPING THE SOIL IN A GOOD CONDITION.
IF HE'S THAT DEVOTED TO ORGANIC FARMING, THE QUALITY OF THE SOIL IS NECESSARY WHEN SOWING THE SEEDS...

...YEAH

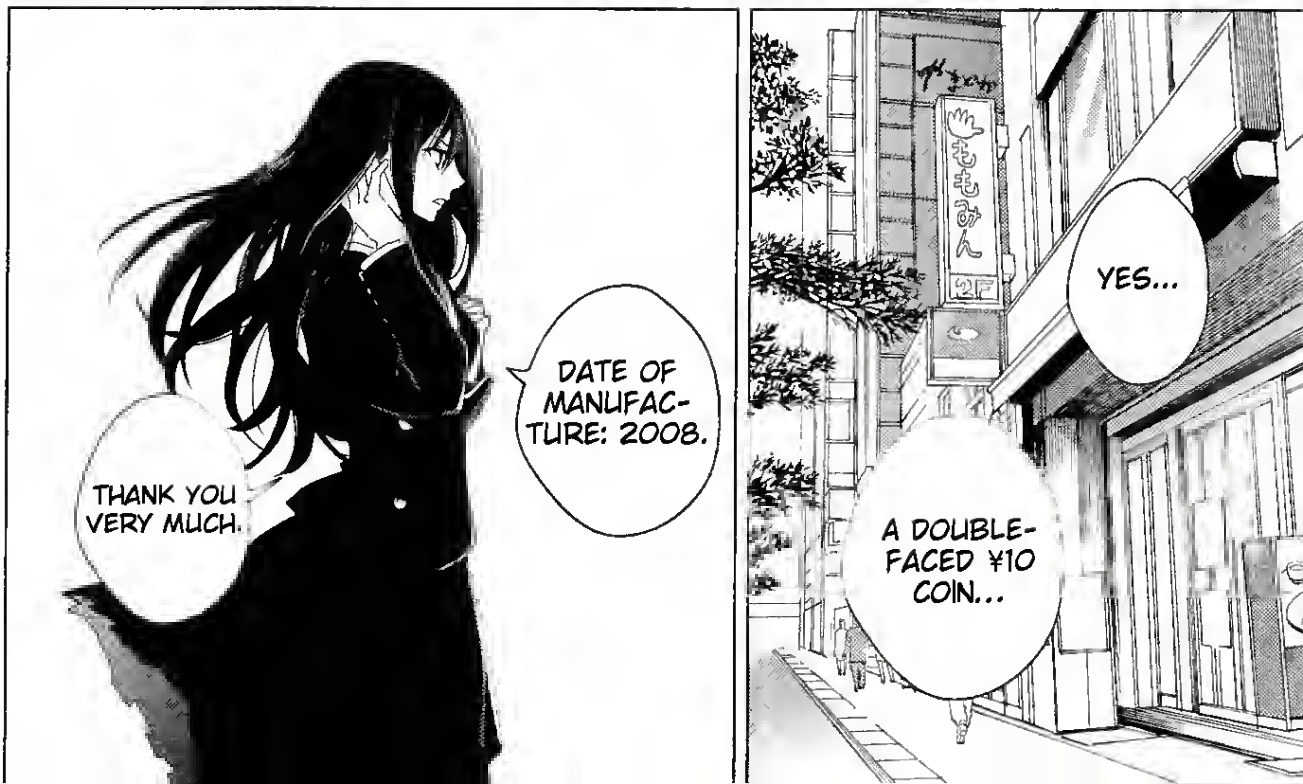
THE PROBABILITY OF HAVING TWO ¥10 COINS SHOWING "HEADS" TWICE IN A ROW IS...
1 IN 4096.
You calculated all that so fast
Yup, she's amazing.
THAT'S RIGHT...
IT'S STILL QUITE AMAZING.
YOU CAN FLIP IT TO "HEADS" ONCE OR TWICE IN A ROW.
THE PROBABILITY OF TWO ¥10 COINS SHOWING "HEADS" CONSECUTIVELY AFTER BEING FLIPPED AT THE SAME TIME IS 1 IN 16,777,216.
?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SO IONA FOODS CAN EASILY WIN THREE TIMES IN A ROW.
That's really amazing

THE PROBABILITY IS JUST A LITTLE STRANGE.

WHAT'S WRONG?
HOLD ON A SECOND.

Beep
Beep

THIS IS RINDA.
HELLO THERE, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
I WOULD LIKE TO ASK IF YOU HAVE THE LATEST SELLING SECONDHAND ERA COIN BY ANY CHANCE?
LIMIT THE SEARCH TO ¥10 PLEASE.


YES...
A DOUBLE-FACED ¥10 COIN...
DATE OF MANUFACTURE: 2008.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THEY STILL MAKE ERA COINS EVEN IF THE COIN MANUFACTURING FAILED?
SELLING ERA COINS FOR A HIGH PRICE IN THE MARKET IS A MAJOR TOPIC FOR BOTH COLLECTORS AND ANTIQUE COIN SHOP OWNERS...
AN ACQUAINTANCE FROM THE ANTIQUE COIN SHOP.
WHO DID YOU TALKED TO ON THE PHONE?
BUT IT'S RARE TO HAVE IT A DOUBLE-FACED COIN.
THESE COINS CAN DEVIATE FROM MANY PLACES.
NORMALLY, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DISCARDED, BUT IT'S SELDOM ON THE MARKET.
CORRECT.
ACCORDING TO THE ANTIQUE COIN SHOP, A DOUBLE FACED ¥10 COIN MADE IN 2008 COULD BE SOLD FOR ¥300,000 IN A MONTH...
WITH THAT COIN, BOTH SIDES COULD BE EITHER HEADS OR TAILS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO THAT MEANS IONA FOODS...
IT'S INEVITABLE.
IF WE USE THAT, WE CAN'T WIN NO MATTER WHAT.

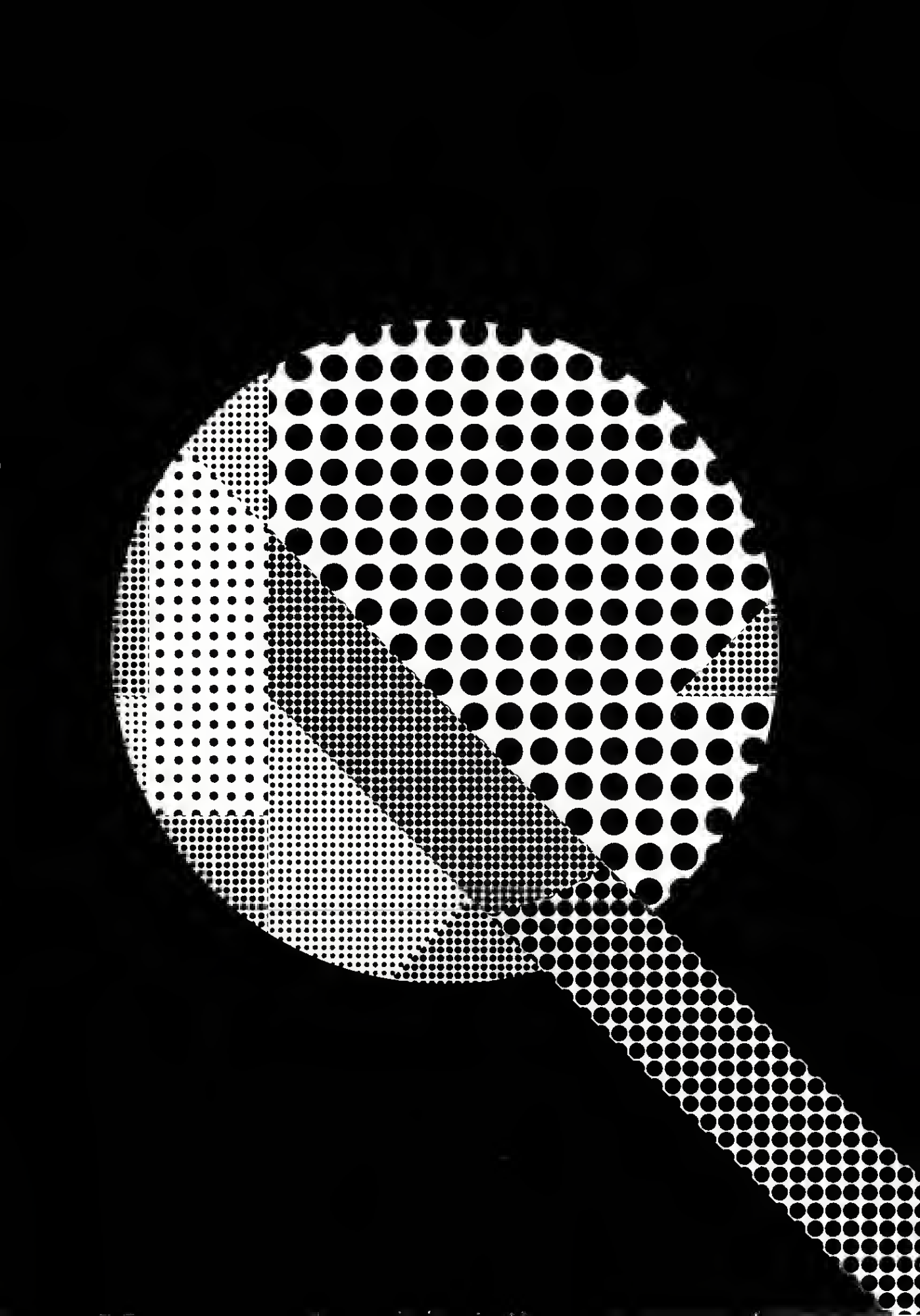
THIS LOTTERY IS A TRANSACTIONS RACE.

IF THE CONTRACTORS ARE ACCOMPLICES, SURELY THERE'S NO REASON TO OPEN THE LOTTERY?
BUT WHAT ARE THEIR GOALS?
THE REASONS ARE UNKNOWN.
IT WAS DECIDED THAT [TAG THROWING] WOULD BE USED RIGHT FROM THE START.
IONA FOODS HAVE DEVISED A PLAN TO USE A DOUBLE-FACED ¥10 COIN FOR THEIR CONTRACT.
THE CONTRACTORS ARE ALSO ACCOM-PLICES...
不動産抽選会
BUT THIS FACADE HAS KICKED NARAZAKI OUT...
AS A RESULT, IT HURTS HIM.
THAT IS INEXCUSABLE.
THOSE DAMN CHEATING CONTRACTORS ...!!
.....

RINDA-
SAN...
.....
ぐっ

OF COURSE SHE WOULD GET ANGRY.
THERE'S SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE LOTTERY.
YES.
COUNT ME IN.
I WANT TO COLLECT DATA FOR MY REPORT.

RINDA-SAN, I NEED YOUR HELP WITH YOUR EYES FOR APPRAISAL.
WILL YOU COOPERATE WITH ME?
OF COURSE!
File 02 / END



VNF

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UNCHARTED SCANLATIONS

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